General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/56/561/Add.7)*]

56/200. Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999 and 55/205 of 20 December 2000 on the World Solar Programme 1996–2005,

Recalling also resolution 14 concerning the World Solar Programme 1996–2005, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-ninth session in November 1997,[1]

Reaffirming that the convening at Harare on 16 and 17 September 1996 of the World Solar Summit, at which the Harare Declaration on Solar Energy and Sustainable Development[2] was adopted and preparations for the World Solar Programme 1996–2005[3] approved, was a step in pursuance of the implementation of Agenda 21,[4] which is a multifaceted and, at the same time, fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development,

Emphasizing that the World Solar Programme 1996–2005 is aimed at encompassing all forms of new and renewable energy, including solar, thermal, photovoltaic, biomass, wind, mini-hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal forms,

Recalling resolution 19 adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirtieth session in November 1999,[5] concerning the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training

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[1] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-ninth session, Paris, 21 October–12 November 1997*, vol. 1: *Resolutions*.

[2] A/53/395, annex, sect. II.

[3] Ibid., annex, sect. V.D.

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirtieth Session, Paris, 26 October–17 November 1999*, vol. 1: *Resolutions*.

Programme 1996–2005, which constitutes one of the major programmes of universal value of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005,

Reiterating that mutually supportive efforts at the national and international levels are imperative in the pursuit of sustainable development, which includes the provision of financial resources and the transfer of technology for the application of cost-effective energy and the wider use of environment-friendly, renewable energies,

Acknowledging that the General Assembly continues to play an important role in promoting the World Solar Programme 1996–2005,

Acknowledging also that the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council continue to play a pivotal role as forums for the discussion of new and renewable sources of energy and sustainable development,

Noting the role that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization continues to play in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005, in particular its efforts, in association with multilateral partners and national specialized institutions, to enhance bilateral and regional cooperation through the joint organization of regional and subregional business and investment forums,

Welcoming the recommendations of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its ninth session,[6] in particular the references to renewable energy,

Expressing its appreciation for the continued efforts of the Secretary-General in bringing the World Solar Programme 1996–2005 to the attention of relevant sources of funding and technical assistance,

Calling for further action to ensure that the World Solar Programme 1996–2005 is fully integrated into the mainstream of the efforts of the United Nations system towards attaining the objective of sustainable development,

Emphasizing that the achievement of more substantive results in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005 will require the active involvement of all concerned parties, including Governments, multilateral funding agencies and relevant bodies in the United Nations system,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General concerning concrete action being taken to implement General Assembly resolutions 53/7, 54/215 and 55/205,[7] and welcomes, in particular, the attempt therein to analyse and discuss the obstacles and constraints impeding the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and options for action to overcome them;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the role that the World Solar Commission continues to play in the mobilization of international support and assistance for the implementation of many of the national high-priority projects on renewable sources of energy included in the World Solar Programme 1996–2005, many of which are being executed with national funding;

3. *Notes* that although significant financial support has been provided by some developed countries that are Members of the United Nations and some intergovernmental organizations, within and outside the United Nations system, in

[6] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 9* (E/2001/29).
[7] A/56/129.

the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005, more action still needs to be taken in this regard;

4. *Encourages* national Governments and relevant stakeholders to make more use of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005 as one of the vehicles to boost the development and utilization of solar energy technologies and all forms of new and renewable energy, including biomass, wind, mini-hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal forms;

5. *Invites* the international community to support, as appropriate, by, inter alia, providing financial resources, the efforts of developing countries to move towards sustainable patterns of energy production and consumption;

6. *Recognizes* that rural energy services, including their financing, should be designed to maximize local ownership, as appropriate;

7. *Reiterates its call upon* all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to support, as appropriate, the efforts being made for the development of the renewable energy sector in developing countries on the basis of environment-friendly renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies beyond urban areas;

8. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of adequate technical assistance and funding and to enhance the effectiveness and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of renewable sources of energy;

9. *Emphasizes* the need to intensify research and development in support of energy for sustainable development, which will require increased commitment on the part of all stakeholders, including Governments and the private sector, to deploy financial and manpower resources for accelerating research efforts;

10. *Recognizes* that the wider use of available renewable energy technologies requires the diffusion of available technologies on a global scale, including through North-South and South-South cooperation;

11. *Takes note* of the decision of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization regarding the contribution of the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996–2005 in attaining the objective of sustainable development,[5] and in this context encourages the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to mobilize resources, both human and financial, as mandated, to ensure the effective implementation of the Programme and to make efforts to promote public awareness in all Member States in this regard, with the support of international, regional and national institutions, both public and private;

12. *Invites* the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to make effective the implementation of the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996–2005 in the various regions and to strengthen the implementation of its African chapter;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, the Global Environment Facility, the United

Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the concrete action being taken for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the effective implementation of and the mobilization of resources for the World Solar Programme 1996–2005;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996–2005".

90th plenary meeting
21 December 2001